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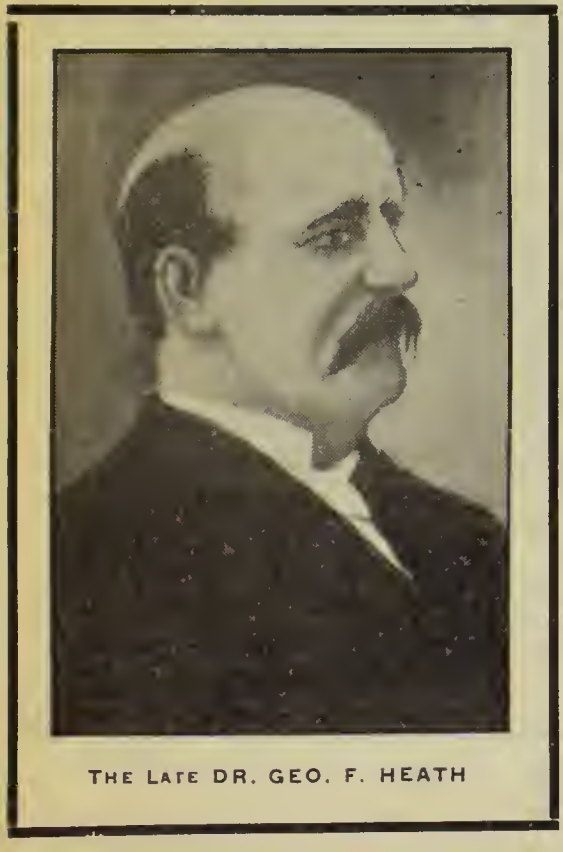
Newspaper and Magazine Clippings pertaining to Coins thankfully received. Contributions from those interested in the Science solicited and liberally paid for

DR. GEO. F. HEATH

Beloved and Honored Founder of the American Numismatic Association Passes Away.

Just as we were preparing to go to press with the July number of the MONTHLY we received a letter from President Zerze advising us of the sudden death of Dr. Geo. F. Heath, at Monroe, Mich., Tuesday morning, June 16th.

The announcement of the sudden demise of Dr. Heath will be received with the most profound sympathy and sorrow by the entire Numismatic World. The sadness of the event is intensified by the recollection that Dr. Heath has passed away in the midst of his usefulness.



THE LATE DR. GEO. F. HEATH

Dr. Heath was the founder of the American Numismatic Association, which is now the largest and strongest Association of its kind in the world. And it is to his tireless efforts and willingness to help all those who needed advice that the Association owes its present being.

Dr. Heath was, for a quarter of a century, the publisher of the "Numismatist," one of the first Numismatic magazines published. His magazine served as the Official Organ of the American Numismatic Association since the Association was first organized in 1901. His keeping the "Numismatist" going in the Dark Ages of the Association served as a great stimulant to the then infant hobby.

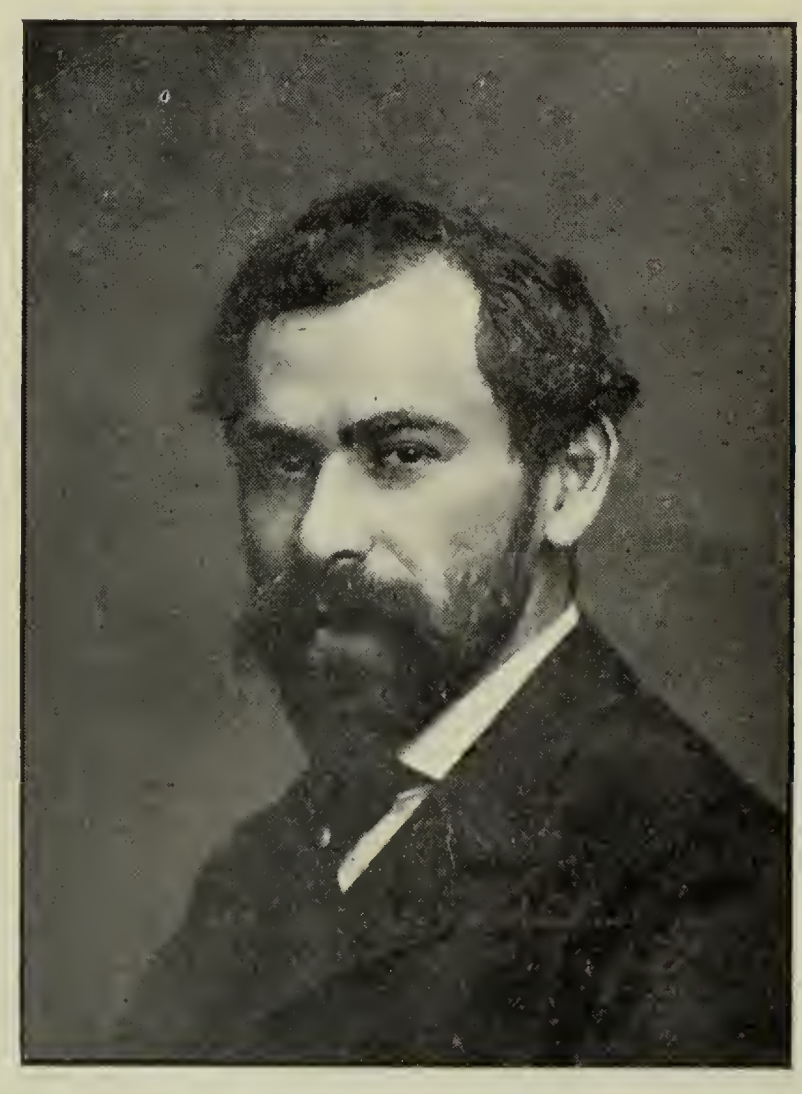
We are at a loss for words with which we may express our true feeling of sincere regret at the sudden demise of our beloved friend and brother Numismatist. The death of Dr. Heath is indeed a severe blow, not only to the whole field of American Numismatics, but to the entire community and to all who have had the pleasure of his acquaintance and friendship.

Victor D. Brenner

AMERICA'S FOREMOST MEDALLIC ARTIST.

An Autobiographical Sketch of Mr. Brenner and His Works, by F. D. Millet.

And an Account by Mr. Brenner of the Methods Employed in Designing and Striking of Medals.



VICTOR D. BRENNER

In the early days of this Republic, great attention was paid to the production of medals; indeed, some months before the Declaration of Independence, Congress ordered a gold medal to be struck and presented to George Washington "for his wise and spirited conduct in the siege and acquisition of Boston." Later there was a series designed and struck in Paris, by order of the Continental Congress, under the supervision of Colonel David Humphreys, who, recognizing the importance of following the rules governing numismatics, asked the aid of the French Academy of Inscriptions and Belles-Lettres in the composition of the designs. Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and John Jay were interested in the work, Franklin as an admirer and friend of the famous medallist Dupre.

The art of Dupre, Duvivier, Gatteau, Andrieu, Gayrard, and other notable French medallists strongly

influenced our own artists, and for several decades after the establishment of the Republic the importance and special value of this art continued to be recognized in this country. As late as 1846 General Winfield Scott, in a letter to Secretary of War Macy, in relation to the medal ordered by Congress to be presented to General Zachary Taylor for his victories on the Rio Grande, expressed an appreciation of the medallists' art, which is worth quoting here. He wrote: "As medals are among the surest monuments of history, as well as muniments of individual distinction, there should be given to them, besides intrinsic value and durability of material, the utmost grace of design with the highest finish in mechanical execution. All this is necessary to give the greater or adventitious value; as in the present instance, the medal is to be at once an historical record and a reward of distinguished merit." Further testimony to the importance of this branch of art, if such be needed, is found in the words of J. F. Loubet, the author of the well known "Medallic History of the United States." He wrote: "Medals, by means of the engraver's art, perpetuate in a durable form, and within a small compass which the eye can embrace at a glance, not only the features of eminent persons, but the dates, brief accounts and representations (direct or emblematical), of events; they rank, therefore, among the most valuable records of the past when they recall men, deeds, or circumstances which have influenced the life of nations."

About the middle of the last century there appears to have been a decline in the public encouragement of the medallist. Not only in the mind of the public, but in that of the artist as well, this special art has become confused with the art of the scupltor, and the canons governing numismatics have long been forgotten or ignored. The result has been that while there has always been a considerable demand for the work of competent medalists, and while this country has produced architects, sculptors and painters of world-wide reputation, no medallist has come to the front as a master in his profession. It is, therefore, a matter of great satisfaction to find here an artist whose taste and temperament have inclined him to choose this special branch of plastic art for his life work, and who has already achieved eminence in it.

The small size of plaques and medals and the consequent difficulty of showing them to advantage in a general collection of works of art, are the chief reasons why a medallist rarely shows his work publicly, and it is only in an intimate and special exhibition that these productions can be studied with satisfaction.

The J. SANFORD SALTUS GOLD MEDAL
By VICTOR D. BRENNER.

Instituted this year, to be awarded at the National Academy of Design every year, for the best work either in sculpture or painting, regardless of sex or nationality.

Mr. Victor D. Brenner was born in Shavely, Russia, in 1871, and at the age of thirteen began to work with his father in engraving seals and in stone cutting. After three years' experience under his father's directions he left home and worked as an engraver of jewelry and a sculptor in various cities of Russia until 1890,

when he came to New York and entered as a pupil, first in Cooper Union, then in the School of the National Academy of Design, and in the Art Students' League, practicing his profession in the daytime and studying at night. In 1898 he went to Paris, became the pupil of Roty and studied in the Julian Academy under Peuch, Verlet and Dubois for two years. After a year's travel in Italy and Germany, he returned to New York and opened a studio, and in the course of three years produced a large number of plaques, medals, reliefs and busts.

The past two years he has spent in Paris studying with Roty. His work has been shown in the exhibitions in Paris, Berlin, Munich and London and in the important exhibitions in this country. Among other distinctions he has been awarded a bronze medal in the Universal Exposition at Paris in 1900, a mention in the Salon of the same year, a bronze medal at the Buffalo Exhibition and a silver medal at the St. Louis Exhibition. He is represented in the Luxembourg Gallery in Paris by eighteen pieces, in the collection of the Mint in Paris by twelve pieces, in the Glyptothek in Munich by ten pieces, in the Boston Museum by the same number and in the Metropolitan Museum of New York by 39 pieces.

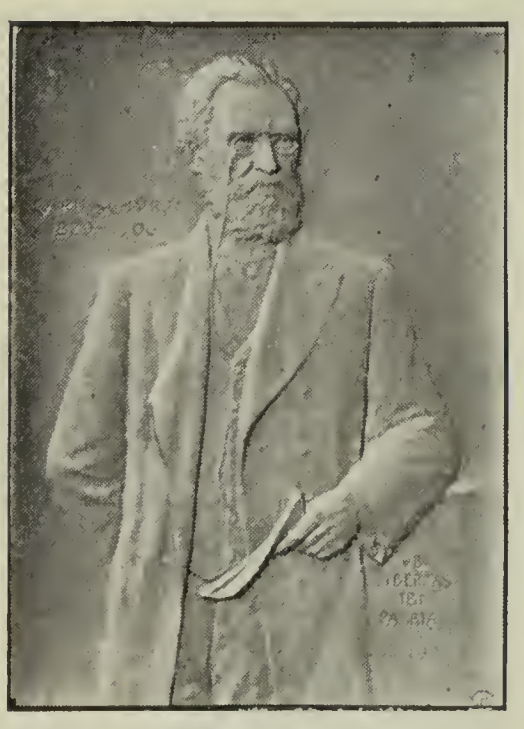
Methods Employed in Designing and Striking Medals.

A medal has had for its object through all ages a commemoration of an important event or of a noble personage.

In its execution may be found all the qualities that any work of art may possess in other media. Its technicalities, however, limit its design, and its size exacts extreme delicacy of execution. But for conveying a story, it has a broader scope than sculpture, and like painting, admits of perspective and even of atmosphere.

After the idea is conceived sketches in soft wax are made to determine the desired relief and composition of lines. For the final model, a slate is used in order to have an even sur-

CARL SCHURZ MEDAL, By VICTOR D. BRENNER.



OBVERSE: Three-Quarter Portrait of Mr. Schurz at the age of 40.

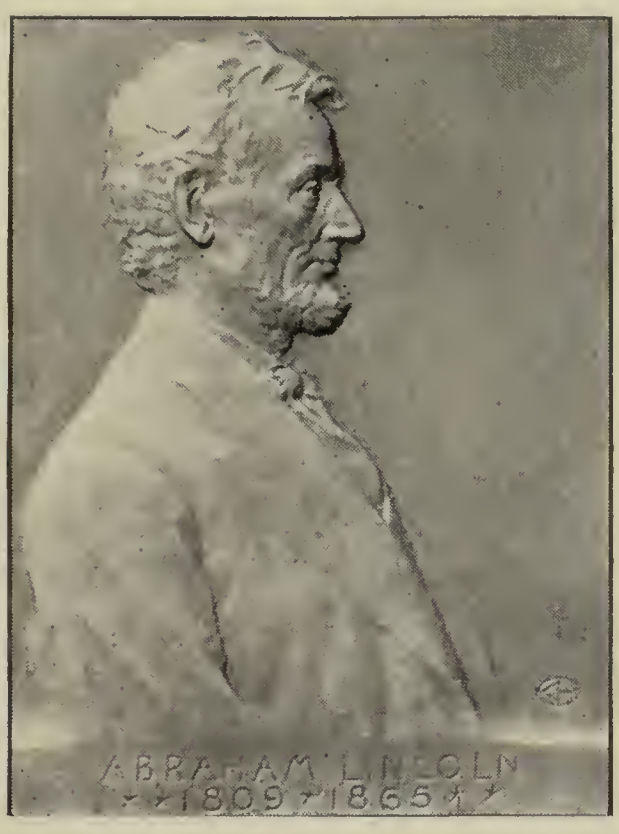
REVERSE: Represents Excelsior leading Humanity towards the Ideal.

face; the design is then traced on it with a point, and bit by bit the wax is applied until the full modelling of the design is obtained. The wax model is made on the slate four or five times the diameter of the finished medal.

In many cases the artist will oil the surface of his wax model, make a mould of it in plaster of paris. This mould is in turn filled with plaster of paris, and a positive or cameo is obtained representing the model. In other cases, after the wax model has been completed ,the artist proceeds at once to translate his design into a block of soft steel, called a die. The left hand holds the die firmly in position. In the right hand is held a steel graving tool called burin, which cuts into the die by the pressure of the palm, guided by the four fingers. The thumb is used as a counterbalance on the die, so as to prevent and stop pressure when it has reached the desired depth and length.

An outline sketch is first made on the face of the soft steel by the artist, carefully following the design of the medal. Then he commences to cut into the steel with his burin, producing an intaglio which eventually will be the die from which the medal is struck.

After almost every cut of the tool, the artist takes wax impressions of his die to see how the work is progressing and to note how it agrees with the original wax model.



LINCOLN MEDAL.
Mr. Brenner's Latest Work.

A trained engraver's hand will in time develop an accuracy of touch that will save him many verifications by wax impressions. In leading his graver he can feel the direction of the cut or curve of line, no matter in what depth it may be. When the hand reaches this state of sensitiveness it obviates much of the eye strain to which engravers are subject.

One interesting process made use of very often by engravers, but not

generally known to the laity, is the application of so-called punches in intaglio cutting. These "punches" consist of steel bars at the end of which are engraved in cameo, letters, forms or even parts of the design. The punches are sunk with a hammer into the die to the desired depth, thus obtaining easier results at depths not readily accessible with the graver. After completion the die is heated to a cherry red and immersed in a basin of water from the bottom of which arises a tube carrying cold water. It is essential that the stream flowing from the tube should meet the surface of the die immediately upon its immersion. By this process the surface of the steel is hardened to resist the pressure required in the striking of the metal.

Since the introduction of the reducing machine, the medalist has his model cast in bronze or iron, adjusts it to the machine and obtains a reduction in steel in any size desired. The reducing machine, which is a kind of pantagraph, was invented by the Frenchman Contamin early in the nineteenth century. A steel point following the model in its reliefs and cavities, transmits by means of a bar its movements to another point which cuts into the steel. This machine saves the artist much of the tedious work required in the cutting of dies by hand. It copies a model with but slight modifications in certain places, and if due allowance has been made in the model, will need but little retouching in the die. The striking of a medal is entire mechanical, and is obtained by either hydraulic pressure, or the screw press. The metal disc is placed between the dies, and pressed until the full image is obtained. According to the height of the relief, it may require from one to ten or even more pressures, and anneal the metal disc each time after it has received a blow.

The medal is now ready to be colored, or, as it is termed, have a patine put on it, for it must be remembered that when a medal comes from the press, it is as bright as a new penny. The patine may be obtained by burnt sienna, by liver of sulphur or sal-ammoniac as the case may be for the bronze. For the silver, any oxide will do to give a dark background, and to relieve the surface, pumic stone is used with effect.

OUR PRE-CONVENTION NUMBER.

It is our intention to issue a special number of the Monthly for September, to be devoted entirely to the American Numismatic Association. We hope to be able to publish the photos of all officers of the Association, with short articles by each officer. We would also be pleased to hear from members of the Association, and we would gladly accept small articles, treating on the A. N. A. It's past, present, or future, or anything which you may think the Association should or should not do at the next convention. We expect to circulate the Special Number very extensively, and our Association will undoubtedly derive much good from it. The time is short, so let us hear from you at once.

Our subscription lis is growing wonderfully. We now have a very large list of pleased subscribers, but there is plenty of room for more. If not a subscriber, send along your subscription now. You surely don't mean to say that this magazine is not worth fifty cents for a whole year.

"I thank you for copy No. 4, April, 1908, of your Numismatic Monthly. I think it is an excellent publication, and wish you every success.

J. ARMSTRONG FOSTER, Chestwood, England.

President Zerbe's Letter

Advising of the Death of Dr. Heath.

Mr. B. Max Mehl, Philadelphia, Pa., June 17, 1908.
Fort Worth, Texas.

My Dear Sir:

It is with sincere regret that I advise you of the death of Dr. George F. Heath, at Monroe, Mich., Tuesday morning, the 16th instant. The only advice I have indicates a sudden demise, and that the funeral will take place at three o'clock Friday. Please inform such members as you can conveniently communicate with. I have telegraphed Dr. J. M. Henderson, Columbus; Ohio.; Mr. W. F. Dunham, Chicago, Ill. and Mr. Geo. W. Rice, Detroit, Mich., to, if possible, attend the funeral, representing the Association. I have advised Secretary Wood to arrange for suitable Association floral tribute.

The death of Dr. Heath, our founder and publisher of the Numismatist, makes it necessary for prompt action regarding our Official Organ, and for the good of the Association. I am endeavoring to have an early conference with Secretary Wood and Chairman Wright for this purpose.

Letter reply, if any, should be addressed to me at Tyrone, Pa.

Yours, very respectfully,
FARRAN ZERBE,
President.

Hastily dictated.

A SHORT ACCOUNT

Of the Life and Death of Dr. Geo. F. Heath.

From Detroit Free Press, June 17, 1908.

Monroe, Mich., June 16.—Dr. George Francis Heath, former mayor and one of Monroe's most highly respected citizens, died at 8 o'clock this morning as the result of a stroke of apoplexy. His sudden death came as a shock to the whole community. Last evening he attended the commencement exercises of the Monroe school of music and then spent a short time at the Merchant's and Manufacturers' club, going home about 11 o'clock and retiring after partaking of a light lunch, apparently in the best of health. He was stricken at an early hour this morning, and died a few hours later without recovering consciousness.

Mr. Heath was 55 years old, a graduate of the medical department of the University of Michigan, and for several years had charge of the hospital at that institution. As a young man he lived in Missouri and when but 23 years old was postmaster of Jefferson City, Mo. He was a protege of Senator Calhoun of Missouri. He was a member of the Monroe Yacht club, the Merchants' and Manufacturers' club, and past regent of the Royal Arcanum and past commander of Custer Tent, Modern Maccabees.

Although a Republican, Dr. Heath was three times elected mayor of one of the strongest Democratic cities in the State. He was honored and beloved as a man of high ideals and courage to stand for what he believed to be right.

Dr. Heath was ex-president of the American Numismatic Association, editor and publisher of the Numismatist for 26 years, and was considered one of the best authorities in the world on coins.

A widow and three children survive him.

The funeral will be held from the resident at 3 o'clock Friday afternoon.

To the Members of the American Numismatic Association.

Immediately following the receipt of the advice of the death of our founder and good patron, Official Editor and Treasurer, Dr. Geo. F. Heath, your executive officers conferred and took action for appropriate tribute to his memory and for the continuation of the offices in which he had so faithfully served us. special official bulletin presenting these and other matters immediately pertinent for the continued progression of your Association is now being prepared and will be published and mailed to all members just as soon as the desired information can be obtained. It should reach you early in July.

Very Respectfully, FARRAN ZERBE,

Tyrone, Pa., June 20th, 1908. President.

A. N. A. CONVENTION.

It is going to be so big, so good, and so great that we are going to have a bunch to say about it and the Association a little later. Philadelphia is the place, and the week of Sept. 28 the probable time. A program that will stretch over five days and extend from Fairmount park to Atlantic City is being arranged. The best exhibits ever, illustrated educational lectures, and effective legislation will mark the serious sessions, which will be garnished all around social doings, all of which will make you good and sorry if you fail to be a Philadelphia Conventionite. Better anticipate it now and arrange accordingly.

The Association's official badge medals are a-coming, and bars for "bravery" at Philadelphia will be well worth meriting. Z.

Thinking that it may be appreciated by the members of the A. N. A., we are sending this number of the Monthly to every member of the Association, whether a subscriber or not, so that the sad news of the sudden death of Dr. Heath may be conveyed to the entire membership as rapidly as possible.

The death of Dr. Heath makes it necessary for prompt action regarding our Official Organ. Our convention is near at hand, and should the Board of Governors be unable to make proper arrangements for the resumption of an Official Organ, the Monthly tenders the free use of its pages for the purpose of acting as the Official Organ of the A. N. A., until other arrangemtns may be made by the Board.

Clippings were thankfully received from Messrs. A. M. Bath, Chas. K. Warner, Howard H. Martin, H. Nicklewicz and Jno. W. Haarer. We are indebted to Mr. Haarer for the clippings from the Detroit Free Press containing an account of the death of Dr. George F. Heath.

Russian Roubles

BY GEO. W. TRACY.

In the Bulletin of the Chicago Numismatic Society.

(Continued from page 95.)

1724. The Moscow rouble of this year is similar to the current issue of 1723, excepting the date, and is found with and without the letters **O K** on the obverse. The edge is lettered as before.

1724. St. Petersburg. Twelve varieties. The obverse is similar to the preceding, excepting that the legend reads **Peter I** instead of **Peter A** and that letters **SP B**, for St. Petersburg, appear below the bust. The reverse is also similar to the preceding oMscow rouble, excepting the date, and with the addition of the star of the Order of St. Andrew* which is placed in the small square formed by the four P's and which, by reason of its resemblance to a sun, has caused this type to be known as "sun" or "solar" roubles. The edge is obliquely reeded.

The mint at St. Petersburg commenced operations in 1721, gold only being stamped; the rouble last described is the first coin to bear the mint mark **S P B.**

In describing the second rouble of 1710, we mentioned Haupt, a die-cutter in St. Petersburg from 1705 to 1710. Our authority for placing Haupt in St. Petersburg is Schlickeysen,** who may have been in error, although it is probable that there were die-cutters among the army of artists and mechanics brought by Peter from all parts of Europe to his new city, and quite possible that dies were made there and sent to Moscow to be used in stamping coins.

1725. Moscow. Similar to last Moscow rouble, excepting date, with and without **O K** on the obverse, there being two varieties without the letters. Edge lettered as before.

1725. St. Petersburg. Twenty-eight varieties. Similar to the "solar" rouble of the preceding year.

1725. A rare variety, similar in type to the preceding issues, without mint mark, has the bust differently executed, extending to the lower edge of the field, dividing the legend, which reads **Peter A,** etc. The letters in the legend are smaller and more uniform in size and execution than heretofore. The same is true of the letters in the reverse legend and the "sun" is omitted. The edge is obliquely reeded.

The last piece completes the roubles of Peter's reign. A rare pattern, bearing Peter's bust, dated 1733, does not come within the scope of this article.

The following table may prove a help to those of our readers who are unfamiliar with the Russian characters used in expressing the date on some of the coins.

1700. ѧ	1706. ѧѕ	1712. ѧѕв	1718. ѧѕи
1701. ѧѕа	1707. ѧѕз	1713. ѧѕг	1719. ѧѕѳ
1702. ѧѕв	1708. ѧѕи	1714. ѧѕа	1720. ѧѕк
1703. ѧѕг	1709. ѧѕѳ	1715. ѧѕе	1721. ѧѕка
1704. ѧѕа	1710. ѧѕі	1716. ѧѕѕ	1722. ѧѕкв
1705. ѧѕе	1711. ѧѕаі	1717. ѧѕзі	

Peter I, son of Alexius Michaelovitch by his second wife Natalia Narishkina, was bohn at Moscow June 11, 1672. Alexius died four years later, in 1672, leaving to the throne to Feodor, Peter's half-brother. The latter died, without issue, in 1682,

after naming Peter to succeed him, thus ignoring Ivan, his full brother, who was feeble-minded. This arrangement was unsatisfactory to Sophia, sister of Ivan and half-sister of Peter, an energetic, ambitious princess, who immediately fomented a rebellion, and with the assistance of the "streltzi" or native militia, succeeded in having Ivan and Peter crowned as joint rulers (July 1681) and herself appointed regent. In 1689 Peter married by advice of his mother, Eudonia Feodorowna Lapuchin, contrary to Sophia's wishes, and in October of the same year demanded the regent's resignation. In the ensuing contest, Peter was at first compelled to flee for his life, but the troops, especially the foreign section with Gordon, a Scotchman, and Lefort, a talented Geneves, at their head, espousing his cause, he soon compelled Sophia to yield, and on October 11, 1689 entered Moscow in triumph. Sophia was charged with conspiring against Peter's life, and incarcerated in a convent, where she remained until her death in 1704. Ivan enjoyed his royal title until he died in 1696, but the sole exercise of power was in Peter's hands.

*Apercu sur les Monnaies Russes by Baron S. de Chaudoir.
**Muenz-Abkuerzungen by F. W. A. Schlickeysen.

THE CHICAGO NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

The fifty-third monthly meeting of the above-named Society was held in their rooms, 1622 Masonic Temle, Friday evening, June 5th. President Virgil M. Brand presiding. The following members were present: Messrs. Blumenschoin, Merrill, Chester Dunham, Holmes, Sorensen, Williams, Hoague, Kelly, Green, Verkler, Carey, McDonald, V. M. Brand, Jaeger, Simpson, Excell and Leon. Messrs. Wm. H. Gardiner, F. M. Tuckerman, Armin W. Brand and Frank J. Lamberson were elected to membership.

A motion was carried instructing the Executive Committee to cancel the reverse die of the fiftieth meeting medal.

Mr. Carey read a paper on Specializing, which developed an interesting discussion. Several members present volunteered to make a special study of some particular country, so that all members might be benefited by the results of their researches.

Under exhibits Mr. V. M. Brand showed the ten dollar gold piece of the Cincinati Mining and Trading Co., Mr. Leon and Dr. Merrill some Territorial gold, Messrs. Hoague and Williams foreign gold, and Mr. Green some pewter Continental currency.

The following books were added to the library: Brazilian Coins by Julius Meili, 2 vols.; and Coins of Portugal, by Aragoa, 3 vols. Magazines received since last meeting were: The Curio for April, Philatelic West, Numismatist, Numismatiseh Correspondenz and Spink's Numismatic Circular for May and Mehl's Monthly for June. Auction catalogues were received from Henry Chapman, S. H. Chapman, Elder, Green, Low and Mehl; sales with fixed prices Feith and St. Louis Samp & Coin Co., and priced catalogues from Green (2) and Low (3).

Adjourned to meet July 3rd, 1908. BEN C. GREEN, Secretary.

THE OHIO STATE NUMISMATIC SOCIETY.

The third annual convention of the Ohio State Numismatic Society will be held in Columbus, Ohio, July 20th to 22d.

Headquarters will be at the Great Southern Hotel, where all sessions and exhibits will be held.

The American Philatelic Association and several kindred organizations will meet here at the same time and place, so there will be "something doing" all the time. The Columbus Collectors Club has invited the O. S. N. S. to participate in all the social affairs arranged for the American Philatelic Associations, and as far as possible to attend its sessions. There will be a smoker and "talk fest" tendered all delegates and visitors on Monday, July 20th, at 7:30 p. m.

The first session of the Ohio Society will be held Tuesday, the 21st, at 1:30 p. m.

Addresses on the various branches of Numismatics will be delivered by collectors competent to interest all.

All sessions and exhibits will be held in the assembly room, top floor, of the Great Southern Hotel.

For any further information, address the undersigned,

J. M. HENDERSON, Secretary,
13½ E. State St., Columbus, Ohio.

H. E. BUCK, President,
125 N. Liberty St., Deleware, Ohio.

A Letter From Uncle George to His Nephew John

My Dear John: Your rapid advance in things numismatic is a constant source of wonder to me. It will not be long now before you will be qualified to act as a cataloguer and superintend the breaking up and dispersion of a collection, the accumulation of which has been the life work of some advanced and enthusiastic numismatist.

Death is not exactly a pleasant theme to dwell on. It is but seldom that I think of it, and the most unpleasant thought connected with the subject, is for me, the effect it will have on my collection; it's ultimate dispersion in the auction room. Coins that have particularly interested me and that I have been on the lookout for for years, picking up piece by piece until I have completed the set or series, will be thrown into one lot of from 21 to 68 pieces and be given away for from 2 to 3½ cents each. One gleam of comfort for the buyer is, the cataloguer will not charge him any commission except for the lots actually purchased on his bids. Now, I consider this great self denial, and the cataloguer loses much money by sticking to it. I am glad that he does so, as I save considerable money at every sale through this rule.

I have always preferred to buy my coins at sales, rather than from local dealers, going the rounds from store to store—from dealer to dealer.

These men always remind me of spiders on the lookout for a fat fly. They generally have a tray or plate of coins in the window, and from behind a barricade of second-hand paper covered books of more or less doubtful character, watch for the coming of the guileless collector.

It is simply a waste of time for anyone to haunt such places in hopes of picking up rarities at reasonable prices. If he ever does so it is only because the spider does not know the value, and if he does not know he seldom offers the coin in question until he finds out whether it is rare or not. To find this out the guileless and prattling collector is used. Sometimes a rubbing is made which is shown to every collector who enters the store, and he is told that some one brought this in trying to sell, but he asked too much for it, so he took a rubbing and told him to come again. Doesn't the collector think the man asked too much for it? Innocently the collector makes a bid, which is used against the next man who is shown the treasure.

I hope to be able to attend our convention at Philadelphia this fall and cast a vote in your behalf. There is a good deal of talk going on about who will be our next president. Who knows, John, but the choice may fall on you? If you really desire the office, you had better put yourself in the hands of your friends, and all of your hustle for proxies. Don't place any stock in the old chestnut that the office should seek the man. Success attends the man who seeks the office.

My own opinion is that the office should go round. It is nothing short of cruelty to force a man to serve a second term as chief executive of the world's most famous Numismatic Association. The work attached to the high office is so great, the duties so onerous, that a second term practically means the physical breakdown of the unfortunate man.

I have not visited Philadelphia for years, and shall be delighted to meet and renew my old friendship with the Doctor in the City of Brotherly Love. There are some really advanced collectors in Philadelphia, and I expect to have the time of my life if given an opportunity to look over their collections.

Besides the collectors, there are the Numismatists. In fact, I remember reading somewhere that the leading numismatist of the United States lived in that city. I only hope I shall be able to find him out.

The mint will also be a great attraction for me, and if they have struck off any more silver dollars of the vintage of 1804, or any of the half cents of the "Forties," I shall hope to obtain some proof specimens; who knows? What has been done in the past may be done again.

Of our chief officers, Mr. Wood bears the strain best, but I think this is because, under the present new system, his work is distributed among the local secretaries, and these men are looking eagerly towards the convention and the advent of 1909, when other hands will take up the burden that has nearly proved too much for their strength during the past year.

I asked our local secretary recently how he was getting on with the work, and he said he had had enough of it. It seems that many dealers both here and abroad look upon the A. N. A. as nothing but a debt-collecting agency, and this should not be.

Several of the leading dealers are so anxious to send "selections" or consignments out on approval to collectors, and clamor for their "wants" so loudly, that if a collector gives any particulars of such, before he knows it, he has a costly selection sent him and is practically tempted and encouraged to run into debt.

He is young at the business, and is reluctant to return such treasures, sends

something on account and hopes to send the balance in a short time, when he has saved enough to pay for same; but Mr. Dealer grows impatient, and either writes the local secretary, telling of the trouble, or else writes the proper officer, demanding the expulsion of the collector unless the account is paid.

No wonder the dealer looks with favor upon the A. N. A. It is the cheapest debt-collecting agency he has ever subscribed to.

I have adopted a new plan in showing my coins to friends who wish to admire my treasures. I have had the upper wooden panels taken out of the door of my den and plate glass put in their place. I leave my friend standing in the hall or passage, and seated before my cabinet, I remove the coin from the tray, and holding it up, offer it for his inspection. As he is not more than eight or ten feet away, he has a good view of it. The door being between him and the coin, he cannot injure it if he suffers from a sour stomach. I only adopt this plan when showing my U. S. mint proofs. Thank heaven, I have other coins that I am not afraid to let my friends look at, handle and examine at their leisure.

UNCLE GEORGE.

A CORRECTION.

Through an oversight on the part of the proof reader an error slipped in in the communication of Mr. Heal in the June MONTHLY in regard to Mr. Breton's work on Canadian Tokens. On page 100, last line, the date of Mr. Breton's catalogues is given as 1904; this is, of course, an error; it should be 1894.

The month of June is always accepted as "dull season" month, but at a glance at the "Coin-Sale Calender" for the month will certainly offset this belief. Besides, the sales held by Green of Chicago, and Mehl of Texas, there were large and important sales in the East. Mr. E. H. Adams writes: "This is a great month for coin sales—a solid week, in fact, with the Elder sale of Monday and Tuesday (15th and 16th), and the Chapman sales for the rest of the week. Mr. Brand and Mr. Leon are on from Chicago, Mr. Mitchelson from Tariffville, and others prominent in the coin collecting world. Extremely high prices were brought for the rare pieces at the Gschwend sale; $505.00 for the Virginia shilling is surely a high-water mark, while $402.50 for the "silver center cent" has never before been approached. Mr. Brand informs me, by the way, that he has just come into ownership of a new variety of Kohler ingot, $36.55. This makes four known now, a one for $50, at the San Francisco mint; another, for $40.07, at the Philadelphia mint, and two owned by Mr. Brand.

He has just acquired a $10 Cincinnati Mining and Trading Company piece. This, together with that in the mint, one owned by Mr. Zabriskie of New York, and that sold by Mr. Chapman on the 17th, makes the number located four, and seems to be growing. I regard the $5.00 Conway pieee to be very much more rare."

The fact that we publish in each issue of the MONTHLY real good and interesting articles about coins should not lead you to think that we have more than we want of good material. We have got some good articles which will be published from time to time, but we are always anxious to receive good articles, and shall be pleased to hear from anyone intending to favor us with contributions. We are trying awful hard to give a real good Numismatic Magazine, and according to the many pleased remarks of our subscribers, we are succeeding quite nicely.

The Jewish Shekel

BY CHESTER F. DUNHAM.

In the Bulletin of the Chicago Numismatic Society.

In the year 141 B. C., Antiochus VII appointed Simon Maccabaeus governor over Jurusalem and made it a free city. One of Simon's first acts to commemorate the occasion was to establish a mint, and Jewish shekels, corresponding in weight and value to the Grecian tetradrachms, were soon in circulation. The name shekel up to this period was a term designating a certain weight. In the case of the English pound sterling, we notice a similar instance. The shekel was about the diameter of a United States half cent, but three times as thick. The obverse represents the sacred Libation chalice or pot of manna, above it "Year Two," around the border, "Shekel of Israel." The reverse represents either the triple lilies of Aaron's rod that budded and brought forth fruit (almonds) to feed the multitude, around the border "Jerusalem the Holy City." Shekels were issued in silver five years and half shekels for the same period. Quarter shekels, half shekels and shekels of copper dated year four are usually attributed to Simon, but the correctness of this attribution is doubted by some numismatists. Each Jew above the age of twenty-one paid tribute money (one-half shekel) towards the support of the services in the sanctuary. Among the thirty pieces of silver that Judas received for the betrayal, there may have been a shekel, but it is unlikely, as more than a century had elapsed since their coinage. A shekel of silver was worth three hundred widow mites, or fifty-eight cents; a shekel of gold, $5.80, or at the rate of 10 to 1; 3,000 silver shekels equalled 1 talent of silver, or $1,740.00; 30,000 silver shekels equalled 1 talent of gold, or $17,400; 1,600 silver shekels equalled 1 talent of copper. A chariot cost 600 silver shekels, a horse 150 and a slave 30. The dies were probably made of hardened copper, a ball of silver being placed between the upper and lower dies and struck a powerful blow with some heavy instrument.

The new $20.00 gold pieces seem to be holding their own. One with the wire edge in Mehl's sale of June 4th brought $40.00; another of the high relief type brought $39.50, and a specimen of the third issue or low relief brought the high price of $26.00. The ancient coins at above sale sold for from 50 per cent to 100 per cent above their former records. The round $50 gold slug sold for $252.00, and the Kellogg & Co. $20.00 gold pieces for $26.00 and $27.50, respectively.

Mehl's sale IX will take place sometime in July. If not on Mehl's mailing list, a postal will bring you a catalogue. Good things are always to be found in these sales. Your bids always have the best and most careful attention.

"Your magazine grows better with each issue." F. G. DUFFIELD.

$6200 PAID FOR TWO GOLD PIECES.

Conway $5 and Cincinnati $10 Multiply their Value 413 1-3 Times.

Philadelphia, June 19.—Six thousand and two hundred dollars was paid for one $5 and one $10 gold piece at auction in this city this week. Both were coined privately, but were at the time of their issue legal money, containing the required weight of virgin gold. Both are excessively rare, there being only two specimens of each extant. The other two are in the museum of the United States mint, in this city.

J. J. Conway & Co. of Georgia Gulch, Col., coined the $5 that brought $3,200. It bears the date of 1861. The other coin was stamped by the Cincinnati Mining and Trading Company, of California, in 1849. It was bid in for $3,000. Both coins were in the collection of the late Thomas H. Windle, of Coatesville, Pa.

The California $10 coin had not been owned by Mr. Windle long before his death. It was bought for him by Henry Chapman at the sale of O'Hagen collection in London for £435, or about $2,100. The bidding for the two coins, that were sold separately, was very spirited, the bid for each being started at $2,000 by Mr. Chapman. Mr. Elder, a New York numismatist, was the chief competitive bidder.

The famous collection of one-cent pieces owned by F. D. Taylor of Pittsfield, Mass., was also sold, and commanded excellent prices. There were 259 one-cent pieces that brought all the way from $1 to $55 each. At least twenty of them brought more than $20 each, and as many more brought above $10 each. There were also forty-two ½-cent pieces that brought fancy prices, $45, $42, $27 and $22 being the largest.

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OLD ARMY BUTTONS—Wanted or exchange, any that have numbers, letters or military emblem, any country, also belt buckles. G. O. W. Servis, Melrose, Mass. (Jul.)

FOR SALE—A very fine C. Bechtler Carolina $5 Gold piece, only $34.50. B. Max Mehl, Box 826, Fort Worth, Texas.

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WANTED—Jan., Feb. and March numbers of MEHL'S NUMISMATIC MONTHLY. Will pay 10c each. Address the publisher.

TILDEN'S NUMISMATIC GUIDE. The only up-to-date coin book on the market, fully illustrated; price 15c. G. L. Tilden, 377 Main St., Worcester, Mass.

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